

FORUM ON TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

Charter

Idaho will face many significant challenges in the future. Preservation of our valued quality of life and enhancement of our natural resources will be principal among them. Growth will impact life in the urban as well as rural communities across the state. Business forces are at work changing the very nature of our state's economics. It is an exciting and vibrant time to live in Idaho.

A glimpse into the 21st Century reveals that there are many dimensions to our future. Many of these will greatly influence whether or not we are better off 10 or 20 years from now than we are today. One of these is transportation. Transportation is critical to the movement of goods and people. Where transportation systems are robust, well-funded and mature, communities flourish, services abound and opportunities grow. Conversely, one need only look around the country to see how communities who have missed this vital factor in their economic equation have stagnated and declined over the years.

Much of Idaho's future will largely be written by the decisions made in the next few years. These decisions may be hard to make, but make them we must. They must be made carefully, addressing the state's transportation issues holistically and with a clear understanding of the many elements contributing to our mobility.

In order to provide Idaho's elected officials, business, industry, and community leaders a way to discuss and shape this future, the Idaho Transportation Board has established a Forum on Transportation Investment (FTI) for Idaho's Transportation Future. This Forum will be composed of key individuals who are in a position to assist in developing the policies and strategies that will ensure Idaho's bright and wonderful future.

Membership: Members will be drawn from the Idaho Transportation Board, elected officials, business leaders and others who represent Idaho's urban and rural interests and communities. The Director of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) shall serve as and ex-officio member of the FTI.

Chairmanship: The Chairman for the Forum on Transportation Investment (FTI) will be appointed by Chuck Winder, ITD Board Chairman. The FTI shall elect a Vice-Chairman at their first meeting.

Purpose: The Forum shall examine all elements of surface transportation including highways, rail, and transit by doing the following:

1. Examine, document and assess Idaho's transportation needs through 2030 including those already documented by state and local government,
2. Investigate and determine if there are additional needs deemed critical by state and local elected officials that should be added to #1,
3. Examine current transportation finance tools and assess their current and future viability,

4. Investigate and assess additional financing tools and assess their future viability for addressing Idaho's transportation needs,
5. Overlay the available needs with possible funding scenarios and assess Idaho's ability to meet its mobility requirements into the future,
6. Recommend actions and policies that will assist Idaho in achieving its future transportation vision,
7. Compile a final report to be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairmen of the Senate and House Transportation Committees, the Chairman of the State Transportation Board, the Director of the Idaho Transportation Department and other officials as appropriate.

Term: 18 months beginning July 1, 2004

Frequency: Meetings will be held quarterly in locations throughout the state.

Expenses: Forum members shall serve as volunteers, but will have the option of being reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses including lodging, meals and transportation.

Staffing and Support: The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) shall be the primary resource to the Forum and will provide staff support, per diem reimbursement to panel members and otherwise assist the FTI in the execution of this charter. In addition, the Director of ITD shall establish an Industry Professional group made up of the transportation professionals to provide additional support, information, and assistance to the Policy Makers group of the Forum on Transportation Investment.